

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 15, 2020

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** MARGARET ORLANDO & LAURA DURHAM, DIVISION CHIEFS  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM 4

### Program Wrap-Ups

The **Annual Dog Swim** - Friendly dogs of all sizes enjoyed an end of summer dip in Old Town and Warwick Pool! There were 74 persons and dogs in attendance!



The **Rookie Baseball Clinic** was adjusted from a planned spring program which was canceled due to COVID and offered this fall following COVID guidelines. Participants aged 4-8 years old learned the basics of baseball, which includes: hitting, throwing, catching, and running. Coaches focused on safety, personalized instruction to fit each player's level, and fun. We had a great turn out and received both oral and written praise regarding the safety/comfort of parents with how the clinic was run.



## **Program Updates**

**Chinquapin** had a total of 134 participants with \$ 10,000 in program revenue for its Fall programs (includes **learn to swim**).

**Charles Houston** continues to offer one of the community's favorite classes, **Boxercise** with Washington Are Boxing Hall of Famer, Anthony Suggs. Participants learn a combination of boxing movements while also focusing on upper body strength and cardiovascular conditioning. Participants are engaged in learning the fundamentals of pickleball at Charles Houston. It is a combination of badminton, ping pong, and tennis.

The **Classes and Camps** section's first session of fall programming is off to a great start! We currently have 146 participants attending both outdoor and indoor classes, with ages ranging from 2-seniors. Participants have stated how happy they are to be back and active. Most popular by far has been our **Tennis program**, bringing in 50 youth and adult participants. All program instructors have been working very hard to ensure that their programs can be enjoyed by their participants while also keeping them safe.

The **Sports Section** is offering a number of fall activities. Along with the **Rookie Baseball Clinic**, eighteen participants in the **Girls Softball Clinic** aged 8-12 years old learned the game of softball in a fun and physically distant way. The players will be taught hitting, fielding, and throwing on Wednesday evenings this by volunteer softball coaches.



The **Patrick Henry Recreation Center** is conducting modified programs to comply with all COVID-19 prevention requirements, including **Walk & Fit Training, Body Part Aerobics, Cardio & Weight Training, and Hip Hop Fitness & Circuit Training**. Registration numbers were lowered to 9 max per class to ensure safety/physical distancing. All participants were required to wear PPE's. Patrick Henry also offered a **modified Open Gym for the teens** and adults. All participants must bring their own balls and wear PPE's throughout their visit at the center. The teens have increased their foot traffic back into the center since the pandemic. We have been creative keeping the teens active with basketball drills, Hot Shot shoot outs and just shoot arounds while keeping social distance.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Due to the popularity of the previous clinics, Sports added two more sessions of the **Rookie Baseball Clinic**. Participants aged 4-8 years old learn the basics of baseball, which includes: hitting, throwing, catching, and running. Coaches will focus on safety and personalized instruction to fit each player's level.
- The Sports Section is also offering **Preseason Basketball Fundamentals and Lil' Sticks Field Hockey** programs where players will learn basketball skills in a safe and physically distance environment or where participants aged 6 - 8 years old will develop skills

focusing on the fundamentals of field hockey inclusive of passing, dribbling, and shooting in a non-competitive/safe environment.

- Gather your kids and bring them to the new **Kids Adventure Club at Charles Houston!** Through a variety of activities such as, treasure hunts, creative art, and music, clubbers will develop social and emotional skills. Culinary art and group activities will also provide life skills training. Join us on Saturdays for exclusive fun and activities.
- **Patrick Henry Pop Up Rec** allows residents of all ages to engage in recreational sports, fitness programs, games, crafts & community awareness directly within their community. Events & Games are modified to meet social distancing standards.
- The **Flip First Tumbling Academy** at Patrick Henry is open to both boys and girls of all skill levels to improve balance and agility, and tumble techniques through fun drills, games and interactive demonstrations. All mats will be numbered and sanitized daily before and after each use of the program. Each participant will have their own mat assigned to them following the COVID-19 guidelines of Social Distance. All participant will always stay six feet apart throughout the program waiting their turn.
- In conjunction with ACPS, RPCA has started up the second year of the **Hammond Link Club** program. Hosted at **William Ramsay** in the evening, a small pilot group of students are attending the program participating in open gym, supper, and clubs. The current cycle of clubs include, Art, Comic Book Drawing, Cooking, Basketball, Soccer, Roblox, Minecraft Modeling, Fashion, and Cheer. The current students will be provided leadership activities to build their skills and ultimately help design the next round of activities.

### **Special Features**

- William Ramsay is hosting its third COVID testing event with the city and Neighborhood Health. The event is free and open to anyone. The previous two events were well attended. Similar events have been held throughout the City, including at Charles Houston.
- The great work that RPCA has been doing to support ACPS Virtual + families with full-day programming has been recognized and widely shared recently in the Zebra, ACPS Express, and on the local news on NBC Channel 25 WDVM
- RPCA is working with the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) to temporarily host the Winter Shelter program. The City of Alexandria's Winter Shelter, operated by Carpenter's Shelter, will be temporarily located at the Lee Center for the 2020-2021 season. The Winter Shelter provides overnight accommodations between 7 PM and 7 AM to serve those experiencing homelessness during the cold winter months, starting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 through April. The Lee Center will be used temporarily to ensure that all COVID-19 prevention requirements, including adequate physical distancing, can be met. The Winter Shelter staff are committed to providing a welcoming warm and safe place for some of your most vulnerable neighbors.

# MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2020

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF - PARK OPERATIONS, RPCA

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM 4

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## 1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

### a. Park Maintenance

- Councilman John Chapman and the Maintenance team installed a new Little Free Library at Angel Park Playground. The books are for the kids and the betterment of the community.



*Angel Park, Little Free Library.*

### b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- The Facilities Maintenance team has been working on relocating several irrigation heads to provide proper coverage for the newly resized baseball field at Ben Brenman. Heads needed to be moved 10 feet to accommodate the new warning track.
- The maintenance team made several electrical repairs throughout the City. Witter flagpole lights received new LED fixtures.



*Irrigation head replacements at Ben Brenman.*

## 2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

### a. Urban Forestry

- Kicked off its Holiday Light Installation contract.
- Advised on the updated Stormwater BMP guidelines for Alexandria.
- Geared up for the fall planting season.



*Witter Field flagpole new LED light fixtures.*

### b. Horticulture

- Renewal applications go out to current gardeners for the 2021 season on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.



- Provided additional yard waste containers for Chinquapin and Holmes Run Community Gardens.

### 3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

#### a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

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#### b. Cooperative Initiatives

- The Natural Lands section completed the 2020 season of tick monitoring in Ben Brenman Park and Fort Ward Park this September. Different habitats are monitored in each park. No ticks were found this year in the Brenman meadow plots, but three species of ticks were found in the Fort Ward savanna plot: Blacklegged tick, American Dog tick and the Lonestar tick.

#### c. Environmental Review

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### 4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

#### a. Programs/Updates

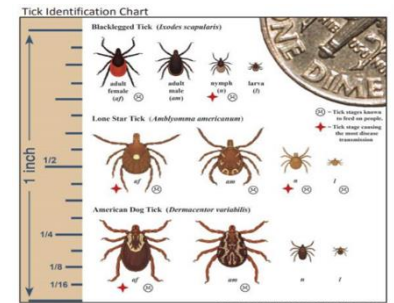
- The Nature Center opened to the public on September 9th and had 107 visitors throughout the month.
- Regarding programming, the Center has set up a schedule for in-person visits to 4 recreation centers offering the Out of School Time Program (OSTP) to begin in mid-October. We have also been working through clearances to prepare for virtual programming. We have received our Zoom license and are awaiting the technology (laptop, webcam, microphone) to begin offering synchronous SOL-based programs to ACSP and local private schools.

#### b. Noteworthy

- There are a few large snapping turtles living in the marsh in DKNP. In one visit we counted 3 large adults and 1 juvenile.



*Holiday lights installation at the 1600 block of King Street.*



All three species of ticks were found in Fort Ward Park. Photo credit-Virginia Department of Health.



*Resident darkling beetle enjoying an apple slice.*



*Snapping turtle in the marsh at DKN*

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 15, 2020

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *JB*  
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM 4

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Park Planning, Capital Development & Waterfront update to the Park & Recreation Commission.

### **James Hixon, Dock Master, Retires**

Jim Hixon served as the City's Dock Master from 2007 through September 28, 2020. In addition to managing the Marina, Jim rewrote the Dock Master job description that became centered on customer service, safety, and asset management. Jim was known to tell stories to all who visited the Marina and was a true City Ambassador. Jim was raised in Texas and graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in banking. He honed his exemplary customer service skills when he ran a family owned department store with his interactions with all walks of life including Stanley Marcus of Neiman Marcus. In addition, he worked in outside sales at companies like Xerox where he earned the distinction as a member of their President's Club 5 out of 5 years.



### **Armistead L. Boothe Park Athletic Field Conversion Project Update**

The Department is in the final step to secure design services for the planned conversion of the Armistead L. Boothe Park athletic field to synthetic turf. It is anticipated that the notice to proceed will occur within the next week. Funding for the conversion project is from the designated funding for the synthetic turf field at the Patrick Henry site currently delayed until the completion of the MacArthur Elementary School which is using the former Patrick Henry Elementary School for swing space. The overall project schedule was delayed approximately six months. When completed in late fall 2021, Armistead L. Boothe Park will have an overlay synthetic turf softball diamond and regulation size rectangular field, new fencing, updated lighting, and if funds are available, upgrades to the restroom facility enabling year-round use.

### **Open Space Steering Committee Update**

On Tuesday, September 29 the Open Space Steering Committee (Committee) had its second

kickoff meeting. The meeting reintroduced the Committee members, the committee's charge of work and approach, and what staff has been working on since March. Additionally, the Committee reviewed and discussed different applications of the existing definition of open space throughout the City of Alexandria. The various types of open space (public, private with a public access easement, and private) were considered and an assignment was distributed to the Committee members. The assignment is for Committee members to review a list of definitions for open space from various jurisdictions and be ready to discuss their thoughts at the next meeting. For more information about the Open Space Policy Plan and the planning process, visit the [project website](#).

### **RPCA Receives 2020 Best of Awards from VRPS**

The Department was awarded by the Virginia Recreation & Park Society for two awards in 2020. The Best New Environmental Sustainability Award was received for the 2019 Community Matching Fund landscape improvement project at Kettle Park and the Best New Facility Award for the Four Mile Run Connector Bridge.



### **Little Library Installed at Angel Park**

The Department and Councilman Chapman, through a PARKnership Agreement, installed a Little Free Library (LFL) at Angel Park near the playground. The LFL was built by Park Operations staff and the LFL will be maintained by Councilman Chapman and his family.



### **Potomac Yard Metrorail Station - Southwest Entrance Update**

Park and Recreation Commission receipt of an update on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Southwest Entrance design (Attachment 1)



## City of Alexandria, Virginia

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### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 15, 2020

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, PRINCIPAL PLANNER  
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

**THROUGH:** JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *JB*  
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

**ITEM:** POTOMAC YARD METRORAIL STATION - SOUTHWEST ENTRANCE

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**ISSUE:** Park and Recreation Commission receipt of an update on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Southwest Entrance design.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Park and Recreation Commission receive the report.

**BACKGROUND:** The Potomac Yard Metrorail Station plan was originally approved by City Council in 2016 and updated in 2018. The 2016 plan included a redesign of the north portion of Potomac Yard Park to accommodate a station entrance at East Glebe Road. The 2018 design included one access point on the east side of the station, and two access points on the west side (a north pavilion and a sloped ramp from East Glebe Road) and did not necessitate the park redesign approved in 2016. The new Southwest Entrance design will replace the ramp at East Glebe Road with a flat bridge, accessible via a pavilion with an elevator and stairs.

**DISCUSSION:** The design for the new Southwest Entrance shifts the pavilion west and north of the location identified in 2016. The pavilion will still be located in Potomac Yard Park. The new location has a square footprint and is on axis with the main path in Potomac Yard Park. The land for the station entrance and the bridge will be dedicated to WMATA. The park areas outside of the WMATA dedicated land will be returned to the current condition, including all finishes, plantings, and features. New maintenance access to the pond and park north of the station entrance will be provided. No changes are proposed to the location of the multi-use/bicycle trail. The Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) for the revised Southwest Entrance is docketed for Planning Commission and City Council Public Hearings in November.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Information on the construction of the Potomac Yard Metro Station, including the Southwest Entrance can be found on the project webpage. The Southwest Entrance Construction will close the area of the park within the limits of disturbance and reduce the maintenance requirements temporarily. The contractor will be responsible for ensuring the



construction does not impact areas outside of the limits of disturbance and restoring the park, outside of the new station structures, to the existing conditions. No long-term maintenance impacts are anticipated, beyond increased use of the park associated with pedestrian and bike traffic to and from the Metro Station.

cc: James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** OCTOBER 9, 2020

**TO:** ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

**FROM:** DIANE RUGGIERO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, OFFICE OF THE ARTS

**RE:** PUBLIC ART AT WATERFRONT PARK: SITE/SEE: NEW VIEWS IN OLD TOWN 2021 CONCEPT PROPOSAL

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### **Background:**

In April, 2019 the Alexandria Commission for the Arts approved Mark Reigelman as the artist for the third temporary public art project at interim Waterfront Park. Due to Covid-19, Reigelman has not been able to visit Alexandria but he has virtually met with key stakeholder groups including Visit Alexandria and the Office of Historic Alexandria and had visited the site during the *Mirror Mirror* installation in 2019.

In October, Reigelman presented his concept for the public art to the Task Force at a public meeting who voted to recommend the concept to the Arts Commission. Staff is sharing the proposal with various community and stakeholder groups prior to presenting it to the Art Commission at their October meeting.

### **Discussion**

Per the approved project plan, the temporary public art at Waterfront Park will be on view from March, 2021 through early-November, 2021. The approved program goals of the series are:

- Amplify Alexandria's reputation as an of-the-moment arts destination on the water with a new work of art that captures the public's imagination and is unlike anything else you can experience in the region.
- Highlight King Street Park at the Waterfront as a new civic space that gives prominence to the location where the mercantile city meets the river.
- Bring a new work of art to Alexandria that is informed by the context of the site.
- Foster engagement and interaction with a contemporary work of art on Alexandria's historic waterfront.
- Attract visitors to experience a dramatic, visually compelling and unique work of art.
- Encourage repeat visits with work that changes between day and night or through the seasons.

In addition, the Public Art Program has identified the following internal goals related to the project:

- Take advantage of the interim nature of the site to test out different approaches to public art for this location.
- Create a signature exhibition that raises awareness of the City's public art program.
- Accommodate plaza programming and other plaza uses.

The Task Force reviewed these goals when considering the proposed concept.

### **Recommendations**

The Task Force recommends approving the proposed concept by Olalekan Jeyifous.